

Remarks

Applicants received two restriction requirements for related applications mailed on the same day: for Application Numbers 10/600,098 and 10/600,290. Applicants believe that the application numbers and claims restrictions for the two applications were inadvertently switched in the Office Actions. Therefore, Applicants are responding to the text of the Restriction mailed as 10/600,290 as if it were for the above listed application number, 10/600,098.

The Action points out that the amended claims appear to be drafted incorrectly with respect to their dependency on the new numbers of the claims. Applicants have amended the claims to correct their dependency.

Restriction:

The Action requests election of either Group I, a process for analyzing gene function by delivering an oligonucleotide that is not expressed, Group II, a process for analyzing gene function by delivering a gene sequence to be expressed, or Group III, a process of drug design by analyzing gene function. Applicants elect Group I to be examined at this time.

It is the Applicants' opinion that claim 20 should be included in claims directed to the elected Group I. Short double strand RNAs (siRNAs) are known to inhibit gene expression but are not expressed when delivered as short double strand oligonucleotides.

It is also the Applicants' opinion that claims 26 and 27 should be included in claims directed to the elected Group I. The term "gene" in claims 26 and 27 is direct to the gene whose function is to be analyzed and not to the oligonucleotide that is delivered.

The Action further requests election of a single species selected from: 1) dsRNA, 2) ssRNA, 3) dsDNA, and 4) ssDNA. Applicants elect dsRNA (double strand RNA) to be examined at this time.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: Feb. 7, 2006.



Kirk Ekena